



# **Maryland Safe Harbor Workgroup 2018 Final Report**

*Secretary of State, John C. Wobensmith, Chair*

Submitted by:  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

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# Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Roster of Members</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
Federal Legislative Efforts	7
State Legislative Efforts	8
<b>Workgroup Observations</b>	<b>11</b>
Compile Existing Information & Identify Needs of Youth Victims	11
Non-Governmental Organizations	11
Child Advocacy Centers	12
Regional Navigators	12
Coordinated Action Against Sex Trafficking	12
Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019	14
Interagency Placement Committee	14
Identify Gaps in Programs & Available Resources	15
Mapping the Trafficking Response System in Maryland	15
Best Practices Workgroup to Create Protocols for Child Advocacy Centers	16
Human Sex Trafficking Screening Tool	16
Sex Trafficking Education Program in Schools	17
Collect & Compile Data on the Number of Youth Victims	18
Evaluate Current State Safe Harbor Policies & Legal Protections	18
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>20</b>
#1: Provide Immunity from Prostitution Charges for Youth Under 18 and Consider Immunity and/or an Affirmative Defense for Other Types of Offenses Committed by Youth Victims of Human Trafficking	20
#2: Support the Felony Human Trafficking Act of 2019	21
#3: Ensure Protocols to Address Missing or Runaway Children Also Address Human Trafficking	21
#4: Expand Services to Youth Victims to Include Housing	23
#5: Identify and Apply for Appropriate Federal Funding Opportunities	23

<b>Appendices</b>	<b>26</b>
Appendix A: Additional Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking	27
Appendix B: Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative	31

## Acknowledgements

This *2018 Final Report of the Maryland Safe Harbor Workgroup* is the result of hard work, valuable input, and dedication from numerous stakeholders including State and local law enforcement representatives, legislators, community advocates, victim's rights' representatives, State and local government representatives, and survivors. Everyone was exceptionally generous with their time and supportive feedback. Their participation in the *Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking*, as well as their feedback, suggestions, and recommendations were invaluable for its final report. The completion, timeliness, and comprehensiveness of this report would not have been possible without their active participation and support.

# Roster of Members

The *Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking* was composed of various members and representatives, and a Chair appointed by Governor Hogan.

**Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith**  
Chair

**Senator Susan Lee**  
Maryland Senate

**Delegate Marice Morales**  
Maryland House of Delegates

**Rebecca Jones Gaston**  
Maryland Department of Human Services

**Doug Mohler**  
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

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Maryland State Department of Education

**Michael Spencer**  
Maryland Department of Health

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**Meghan McCarthy**  
National Center for Missing & Exploited  
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**Amanda Rodriguez**  
TurnAround, Inc. (June 2015 - June 2018)

**Rachel Sye**  
TurnAround, Inc. (August 2018 - present)

**Mona Long**  
Maryland State Education Association

**Amelia Rubenstein**  
Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force

**Corporal Chris Heid**  
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**Christine Raino**  
Shared Hope International

**Nicole Lee**  
Survivor

**Tina Frundt**  
Courtney's House, Survivor

# Executive Summary

Chapter 91 of 2015 ([House Bill 456](#)) established the *Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking* (Workgroup) to study both legal protections and the provision of services for youth victims of human trafficking. Pursuant to this Act, the Workgroup consisted of State and local law enforcement representatives, legislators, community advocates, victim's rights representatives, State and local government representatives, survivors, and a Chair appointed by Governor Hogan. Chapter 91 of 2015 required the Workgroup to take effect on June 1, 2015, and remain in effect for a period of one year and one month, at which it would sunset on June 30, 2016. Chapter 80 of 2016 ([Senate Bill 863](#)) extended the termination date of the Workgroup by one year, and required the submission of a supplemental report to the Governor and the General Assembly as it relates to its findings and recommendations. Chapter 164 of 2017 ([Senate Bill 1017](#)) extended the termination date of the Workgroup by two years, and directed the Workgroup to continue its efforts and to submit two supplemental reports by December 1, 2017, and by December 1, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

Pursuant to these Acts, the Workgroup submitted several reports to the Governor and the General Assembly as it relates to its findings and recommendations, and proposed legislation to increase the legal protection of, and provision of services for, youth victims of human trafficking.

In 2016, the Workgroup provided recommendations, three of which were enacted into law:

- [Chapter 152 of 2017 \(Senate Bill 632\)](#), *Child Abuse - Sex Trafficking (Protecting Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2017)*, expanded the definition of sexual abuse to include sex trafficking regardless of the identity and role of the trafficker.
- [Chapter 645 of 2017 \(Senate Bill 220\)](#), *Police Training Commission - Training Requirements - Human Trafficking*, required human trafficking awareness training for all entry-level law enforcement officers, followed by mandated in-service training for all sworn law enforcement officers every three years.
- [Chapter 646 of 2017 \(Senate Bill 221\)](#), *Adult Entertainment Establishments - National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information - Sign Posting Requirements*, amended § 19-103 of the Business Regulation Article to include adult entertainment establishments as entities required to post National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline information signs.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please visit the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention's [Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking](#) webpage.

In 2017 and 2018, the Workgroup proposed several recommendations of which two were enacted into law:

- [House Bill 871/Senate Bill 690](#) (2019), *Criminal Law - Human Trafficking and Prostitution Offenses*, expanded prohibitions on human trafficking, and renamed “human trafficking” as “sex trafficking.” It also named a felony offense under Title 3, Subtitle 22 of the Criminal Law Article as a crime of violence.
- [House Bill 827](#) (2019), *Child Abuse and Neglect - Sex Trafficking - Services and Investigations (Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019)*, created a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program to support services for youth victims of sex trafficking.

# Introduction

According to the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, "human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act."<sup>2</sup> It is also important to note that force, fraud, or coercion is not required in the context of child sex trafficking because that distinction can impact victim identification. Each year, "millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world," to include the United States.<sup>3</sup>

Although countless efforts have occurred to prevent human trafficking and provide the appropriate services to youth victims, instances have also occurred in which victims entered the juvenile justice system because they were not perceived as a trafficking victim.<sup>4</sup> Because of this, greater focus has been placed on "supporting law enforcement training on human trafficking, enhancing law enforcement and community partnerships, enacting safe harbor laws that prevent the prosecution of victims as offenders, establishing diversion programs for juveniles involved in commercial sex, and establishing provisions to seal or expunge records of trafficked youth's involvement in the juvenile justice systems."<sup>5</sup> As a result, a growing number of states have taken a different approach, treating victims of human trafficking, particularly youth victims, as victims and diverting them to services and resources in the community.

## Federal Legislative Efforts

"Sex trafficking is a state crime" in which sex offenses are typically dealt with at the state level.<sup>6</sup> "Federal law, however, makes it a federal crime to conduct the activities of a sex trafficking enterprise in a way that affects interstate or foreign commerce or that involves travel in interstate or foreign commerce."<sup>7</sup>

Under Section 1591 of Title 18 of the *United States Code - Sex Trafficking of Children or by Force, Fraud, or Coercion* - "whoever knowingly in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, or maintains by any person; or benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture which has engaged in an act . . . knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion . . . or any combination of such means will be used to cause the person to engage in a

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Homeland Security. [Blue Campaign \(One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking\).](#)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Congressional Research Service. (2014). [Juvenile Victims of Domestic Sex Trafficking: Juvenile Justice Issues.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Congressional Research Service. (2015). [Sex Trafficking: An Overview of Federal Criminal Law.](#)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.



commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of 18 years and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act, shall be punished.”<sup>8</sup>

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 serves as the cornerstone of federal human trafficking legislation, and established several methods to prosecute traffickers, prevent human trafficking, and protect victims and survivors of trafficking.<sup>9</sup>

Under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)’s definition of an abused and neglected child was amended to include sex trafficking victims irrespective of the relationship of the abuser to the child.<sup>10</sup> Further, to be eligible for CAPTA funding, states must ensure that child welfare professionals are trained to identify, assess, and provide comprehensive services to child sex trafficking victims.

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act includes a requirement that all states implement policies and procedures to identify, document and determine appropriate services for victims of trafficking.<sup>11</sup> It also requires that state social service agencies report any children who go missing from their care to both law enforcement and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children or risk losing their state’s eligibility for federal funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Administration Act.<sup>12</sup>

## State Legislative Efforts

The State of Maryland strives to identify and provide the best service to victims of human trafficking, particularly youth victims of sex trafficking. In August 2018, Governor Hogan announced several initiatives to combat human trafficking (*as illustrated below*).<sup>13</sup>

- [Executive Order 01.01.2018.19](#) created an Anti-Human Trafficking Director position to serve as the Hogan administration's lead on human trafficking, to coordinate supportive services for victims, and to advise on enforcement responses to human trafficking.
- \$500,000 grant award to the University of Maryland to help create a [Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center](#) to serve as a hub for criminal justice excellence, and to develop law enforcement solutions, victim services, prevention efforts, and other criminal justice programs.
- **\$5 million in funding to provide human trafficking victims with direct services** such as emergency shelter, 24-hour talk-line, trauma-informed therapy, peer groups, support

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<sup>8</sup> Office of Justice Programs. [18 U.S.C. § 1591. Sex Trafficking of Children or by Force, Fraud, or Coercion](#).

<sup>9</sup> Polaris Project. (2019). [Current Federal Laws](#).

<sup>10</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 5106g (the amended definition took effect in May 2017).

<sup>11</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(9).

<sup>12</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(35).

<sup>13</sup> Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention. (2018). [Governor Larry Hogan Announces Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking](#).

services (housing assistance, job training, economic empowerment, GED assistance, and vocational training), assistance obtaining a driver's license or transportation to and from appointments and court appearance, legal advocacy, victim advocacy and system navigation, and street outreach.

- The Governor's Child Advocacy Best Practices Workgroup to research and develop a **protocol to identify and provide services to child human trafficking victims** for child advocacy centers to broaden the types of services for child victims using a trauma-informed approach.
- Reintroduce the **Felony Human Trafficking Act of 2019**, which will classify felony human trafficking - cases in which the perpetrator trafficks a child or trafficks a victim with the intent to forcibly compel the victim to perform a sexual act - as a violent crime.
- More than \$4 million in new [Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network \(MCIN\) Initiative](#) grants to 13 counties which enables law enforcement to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal networks through collaboration and comprehensive data sharing.
- As part of MCIN, and to leverage federal and local partnerships, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention initiated a pilot project with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Baltimore Police Department, the Prince George's County Police Department, and the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center to improve information sharing of case data and to collaborate in real-time with all Maryland agencies to better identify human trafficking networks, as well as their victims.

For more information on initiatives and legislative enactments, please see [Appendix A: Additional Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking](#).

Pursuant to Chapter 164 of 2017, the Workgroup was required to study legal protections and provisions of services for youth victims of human trafficking, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2018, as it relates to the following tasks:

1. Compile existing information on and identify the needs of youth victims of human trafficking and identify the public and private sector programs and resources currently available to meet those needs;
2. Identify gaps in public and private sector programs and resources currently available to meet the needs of youth victims of human trafficking, including already established children's advocacy centers;
3. Collect and compile data on the number of youth victims of human trafficking in the State, including the number of youth victims in each jurisdiction of the State, including already established children's advocacy centers;
4. Evaluate current State safe harbor policies and legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking; and

5. Make recommendations regarding:
  - a. Legislation and policy initiatives to address the provision of services and legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking in the State;
  - b. The collection of data to identify youth victims of human trafficking in the State;
  - c. Funding requirements and budgetary priorities to address the needs of youth victims of human trafficking in the State; and
  - d. Any relevant issues or considerations identified by the Workgroup.

## Workgroup Observations

In 2018, the Workgroup met three times over four months to continue the study of legal protections and provisions of services for youth victims of human trafficking. Each meeting was open to the public to allow community members to provide expertise and offer suggestions. Secretary Wobensmith, Chair of the Workgroup, also invited various experts to a number of meetings to share their experiences with youth victims of human trafficking. Through testimony, research, and discussion, members of the Workgroup examined the specific areas as required by Chapter 164 of 2017 (*as illustrated below*).

### Compile Existing Information & Identify Needs of Youth Victims

Children traumatized by sex trafficking need and deserve a prompt and streamlined response that provides age and culturally-appropriate and trauma-informed crisis assistance and emergency response. They also deserve immediate coverage of basic needs, and assessment for placement into care.

The provision of specialized services for survivors of child sex trafficking is limited to the handful of metropolitan areas across the State. This causes fragmented services and revictimization for survivors. Promising practices reveal that aligning a victim service advocate with the child immediately upon identification can assist with long-term success. This includes reduction of flight risk, increased rapport, more successful investigations and prosecutions, and appropriate access to services. Where possible, these practices should be replicated.

### Non-Governmental Organizations

In Maryland, non-governmental organizations currently serve child victims of sex trafficking in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, and Prince George's County. There is an organization located in Washington, D.C. that serves children from Montgomery County. The Department of Human Services identified two providers (Arrow Child and Family Ministries and The Children's Home) which are equipped to provide diagnostic placement services for youth who are referred as trafficking victims.

- Arrow Child and Family Ministries: Offers diagnostic services in Baltimore County which serve as a "short-term (90-day) residential program with a structured, home-like environment where males and females between the ages of 12 through 18 receive therapy, treatment, planning, psychiatric and psychological services, and accredited academic instruction."<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Arrow Child and Family Ministries: Helping Kids-Strengthening Families. (2017). [Diagnostic Services \(MD\)](#).

- The Children's Home: The Diagnostic Center “provides statewide emergency placement and crisis intervention services to adolescent girls ages 13-19, with the median age 14-16. Typically, teen girls admitted are influenced by the effects of long-term abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect affecting their ability to function emotionally, cognitively, and socially. Initial assessments indicate common behaviors ranging from depression, high anxiety, self-destruction, oppositional behavior, inappropriate sexual behaviors, suicidal thoughts, and decrease interest in academic achievement.”<sup>15</sup> The Diagnostic Center provides “Cognitive Behavioral Interventions with a focus on holistic healing and strength-based interventions.”<sup>16</sup>

## **Child Advocacy Centers**

Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland use a trauma-informed and multi-disciplinary team approach to provide forensic interviews, medical examinations, therapeutic services, case tracking and review to ensure child and youth victims of sexual abuse (a definition that now includes human trafficking) are provided a full array of services; or when necessary or appropriate, referrals to other area service providers. Maryland currently has 22 Children's Advocacy Centers, of which 14 are accredited by the National Children's Alliance. Victim advocacy is one of the 10 accreditation standards.

## **Regional Navigators**

### **Coordinated Action Against Sex Trafficking**

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) coordinates a statewide initiative with rape crisis centers, referred to as the Coordinated Action Against Sex Trafficking (CAAST). This program is building statewide capacity to best serve sex trafficking survivors, both youth and adult survivors, across Maryland through a network of Regional Navigators. Six rape crisis centers were recruited to work together to develop this network of professionally experienced programs to identify survivors of human trafficking, coordinate high quality services, and support the safety, dignity, and self-sufficiency of survivors. As the state sexual assault coalition, MCASA leads the CAAST initiative by facilitating a coordinated and comprehensive response to sex trafficking victims by direct services providers, coordinating policy development, and providing direct legal services to survivors of sex trafficking through its legal program, the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI).

Rape crisis centers have the fundamental familiarity with issues needed to create strong programs for human trafficking survivors, including expertise in sexual assault, trauma-informed care, empowering survivors, and navigating multiple government agencies and the criminal

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<sup>15</sup> The Children's Home. [\*Diagnostic Program\*](#).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

justice system. Therefore, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded the CAAST Initiative in Fall 2016.

The six rape crisis centers in the inaugural CAAST network each have an in-house Anti-Trafficking Regional Navigator who assists trafficking survivors in accessing the services they need to help rebuild their lives. The Regional Navigators are located at the following six rape crisis centers:

1. Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc. (Allegany County)
2. TurnAround, Inc. (Baltimore City and Baltimore County)
3. For All Seasons, Inc. (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties)
4. Heartly House, Inc. (Frederick County)
5. HopeWorks (Howard County)
6. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (Prince George's County)

These programs provide essential services including 24-hour crisis hotlines, individual and group counseling, hospital and court accompaniment, case management, and community education. Some of these organizations also provide mobile crisis support, emergency housing, emergency food assistance, forensic exams, transportation, legal services, transitional housing, long-term housing assistance, job and education assistance, financial literacy, parenting programs, and children's programs.

Through the CAAST program, Regional Navigators are expanding these services and increasing the capacity of rape crisis centers across the State to address the needs of sex trafficking survivors. They are ensuring that their organizations' policies and procedures are appropriate for trafficking survivors. Staff are trained to identify survivors and help them access the unique resources they may need. Regional Navigators are building collaborative relationships with law enforcement, health care facilities, and other victim service organizations in their local communities to ensure high quality, trauma-informed, victim-centered services are provided to sex trafficking survivors. The CAAST project also provides technical assistance and on-site trainings and consultations at rape crisis centers across the State.

In collaboration with the CAAST initiative, SALI attorneys and legal advocates provide direct legal services to survivors of sex trafficking. Legal issues addressed include seeking protective orders, seeking U-visas and T-visas, enforcing crime victims' rights, accessing criminal injuries compensation, requesting HIV testing, pursuing family law options, and other legal needs.

The program is expanding and additional rape crisis centers, including those in Calvert, Cecil, Harford, and other counties, are joining the CAAST network. These agencies are participating in monthly CAAST technical assistance and coordination calls. This is an important expansion of the initiative and necessary to address unmet needs of trafficking survivors across the State. This

expansion includes establishing referral networks and identifying specific types of services that one program may be able to develop as opposed to housing a Regional Navigator.

Rape crisis centers, law enforcement, and social services across the State rely on members of the CAAST regional network.

### **Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019**

In 2019, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 827](#), *Child Abuse and Neglect - Sex Trafficking - Services and Investigations (Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019)*, which established a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program to support services for youth victims of sex trafficking. The *Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019* (Act) requires a law enforcement officer who has reason to believe that a child, who has been detained, is a victim of sex trafficking to notify a regional navigator. The regional navigator will serve as the “point person” to connect youth to the services they needed. Although some services may be provided by the grantee of the Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program, other services may be provided by partnering agencies.

The Act also requires the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention to submit an independent evaluation report, every two years, as it relates to whether services coordinated and provided by grantees are available, adequate, and successfully serving children and youth who are victims of sex trafficking. It also requires the Department of Human Services to submit an annual report, as it relates to: the number of reports of child sex trafficking made in the State in the preceding year; the outcome or disposition of reports of child sex trafficking made in the State in the preceding year; and the number of referrals made to regional navigators under this section in the preceding year. Finally, the legislation states that the Governor may annually appropriate up to \$3,000,000 for grant funding under this section. The Act also allows the grant to serve in one or more counties in the same region, and without county-specific restrictions.

### **Interagency Placement Committee**

The Maryland Children's Cabinet has established an Interagency Placement Committee to annually examine and address gaps in interagency resources for children and families.<sup>17</sup> In addition, the Children's Cabinet has provided funding to support a Local Care Team in every county to support children and youth with intensive needs. The county Local Care Teams are made up of representatives from across the system of human services and they are tasked with coordinating case planning and access to necessary community based services. The Workgroup will build on this existing system by linking it with the proposed statewide human trafficking navigator system. Navigators will engage with the Local Care Teams to access services and help identify gaps in available services. The Interagency Placement Committee will be tasked with

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<sup>17</sup> Governor’s Office for Children. (2018). [Interagency Case Management](#).

reporting annually on gaps in services, including those needed to address minor victims of commercial sex trafficking.

## Identify Gaps in Programs & Available Resources

Because most services available to youth victims of human trafficking are predominantly located in the Baltimore and Washington Metropolitan areas, the Workgroup previously identified six service recommendations in an effort to create a single point of entry for youth victims of human trafficking.<sup>18</sup> Since this time, three of the identified recommendations are currently underway:

- [Executive Order 01.01.2018.19](#) created an Anti-Human Trafficking Director position.
- Establish [Regional Navigators](#) in various areas of the State to ensure victims receive proper short- and long-term services.
- Utilize the [Interagency Placement Committee](#) to identify and coordinate resource and development needs.

In addition to these efforts, the Workgroup has, in partnership with various stakeholders throughout the State, taken strides to establish a greater coordination of efforts to provide the necessary services to youth victims of human trafficking. Some of these efforts include, but are not limited to, the various initiatives listed below.

## **Mapping the Trafficking Response System in Maryland**

In 2018, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Legislative Committee drafted an outline of the various systems by which victims of human trafficking are identified and referred to services and investigative entities. In its draft form, the *Maryland State Human Trafficking Victim Identification System: Mapping the Trafficking Response System in Maryland* outline serves and acts as a guide to: (1) trace the various paths that victims take once identified, ultimately to services and cases made against their abuser; (2) identify how existing protocols/policies are intended to function; and (3) identify where there may be gaps which suggest a need for clearer protocols, improved policies, and more resources. Once finalized, this guide will effectively identify the various actors that fill these general roles in differing jurisdictions, how existing systems for various forms of human trafficking interact, and how systems for the differing ages and subpopulations of victims interconnect, if at all.

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<sup>18</sup> The three remaining recommendations include: (1) identify a single point of access to interagency services to assist navigators in locating local services; (2) establish Therapeutic Foster Care homes for youth survivors of human trafficking; and (3) establish and implement a credentialing process for direct care providers and programs approved to treat survivors of human trafficking.



## **Best Practices Workgroup to Create Protocols for Child Advocacy Centers**

To ensure Maryland identifies and provides services to child victims of human trafficking, the Child Advocacy Center Best Practices Workgroup, co-staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Maryland Children's Alliance, and the Department of Human Services, is researching and developing a protocol to identify and provide services to child human trafficking victims for child advocacy centers. This will broaden the types of services available to child victims using a trauma-informed approach. The Child Advocacy Center Best Practices Workgroup is also developing uniform statewide best practices and procedures for child advocacy centers to use when working specifically with child sex trafficking victims to promote the same response across jurisdictions.

## **Human Sex Trafficking Screening Tool**

As per this Workgroup's recommendation in years past, the Department of Juvenile Services continues to use its human sex trafficking screening tool to screen youth upon admission to the Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center, the Noyes Children's Center, the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center, and the Charles H. Hickey School.

In FY 2018, the Department of Juvenile Services received 2,153 juvenile admissions, ranging between the age of 14 and 19 years old, to the four facilities utilizing this screening tool. This total represents a decrease in juvenile admissions when compared to FY 2017 (n = 2,518), FY 2016 (n = 2,391), FY 2015 (n = 2,877), and FY 2014 (n = 3,246). Based on the screening that occurs for each juvenile admission, the Department of Juvenile Services identified 130 victims of sex trafficking between March 2012 and July 11, 2018. Identified victims of sex trafficking are referred to TurnAround, Inc. for individual and group services.

To ensure all possible victims are identified in the community, the Department of Juvenile Services' policy requires case management staff to screen youth supervised in the community who present a concern for possible trafficking victimization. The Department of Juvenile Services coordinates with victim service providers for additional referrals as more youth are identified. In an effort to expand this program to other juvenile facilities, the Department of Juvenile Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Maryland - Safe Center to provide services to Prince George's County and Montgomery County to include the Cheltenham Youth Detention Facility. The Department of Juvenile Services continues to seek as many providers as possible. While the need for services is still apparent in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, and the Eastern Shore, this partnership between the Department of Juvenile Services and the University of Maryland - Safe Center will allow for the continued expansion of services to the largest jurisdictions within the State of Maryland.

## Sex Trafficking Education Program in Schools

Because many children are recruited for trafficking, and are exploited, while they are in school, “educators are uniquely positioned to identify and report suspected trafficking among their student population, due to their daily interaction with many high risk populations.”<sup>19</sup>

To address this, the Araminta Freedom Initiative, in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the American Federation of Teacher conducted a pilot in three local school systems (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George’s County) - 10 schools were piloted in each district. This pilot, a comprehensive prevention and intervention child sex trafficking education program, occurred to determine the effectiveness of prevention/intervention curriculums with educators to identify and intervene in child sex trafficking within the school system.<sup>20</sup>

Prior to advanced training sessions and individual school based training, Araminta staff developed a survey to assess pre-training knowledge, post-training knowledge, retention of main learning objectives, and overall training model feedback.<sup>21</sup>

Key school staff was also asked to assist in the dissemination of surveys pre- and post-training. There was a 15.5% completion rate in which 2,626 staff was collectively trained in all three school systems, and 406 staff participated in the evaluations.

The findings of this survey, to include pre- and post-training on the knowledge and preparedness to respond to child sex trafficking, as well as mandated reporting of all forms of child abuse and neglect include:<sup>22</sup>

- 57% of advanced training staff and 79% of school based staff were unaware of changes to the Maryland law regarding child trafficking
- 79% of advanced training staff and 92% of school based staff had never received written instructions on reporting suspected child trafficking prior to the pilot
- 79% of school based staff had never received training regarding child trafficking
- Following the training, 84% of advanced training staff and 82% of school based staff stated they would know what to do to report suspected trafficking
- One district averaged 1.2 reports of suspected child trafficking or highly at-risk child trafficking per number of pilot schools

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<sup>19</sup> Maryland State Department of Education & Araminta Freedom Initiative. (2016). [\*Child Sex Trafficking Prevention & Intervention Education Program\*](#).

<sup>20</sup> Araminta Freedom Initiative. (2017). [\*Maryland State Board of Education: Human Trafficking Prevention and Intervention Pilot\*](#).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

## Collect & Compile Data on the Number of Youth Victims

Between July 2013 and June 2018, over 455 reports of suspected child sex trafficking cases were screened in to Maryland's 24 Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) agencies, which involved over 375 individual alleged minor victims. The number of alleged child sex trafficking cases screened in increased by 153% between state fiscal year 2014 and 2018. The majority of child sex trafficking cases were reported by law enforcement, followed by the Maryland Department of Human Services and LDSS agencies, then schools and anti-human trafficking organizations. Eighty-seven percent of alleged child sex trafficking victims were between the ages of 14 and 17 years old. In addition, 93% of alleged child sex trafficking victims were female, with the remainder of alleged victims split between male youth and transgender female youth. Case history analysis revealed that 70% of alleged victims had prior involvement with Maryland's child welfare system before their first child sex trafficking report. For more information pertaining to this data component, please see [Appendix B: Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative](#).

In partnership with the Maryland Department of Human Services, the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI) at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work collects and analyzes data on child sex trafficking cases in Maryland. Funded through a five-year grant provided by the *Administration for Children and Families: Children's Bureau*, CSTVI strives to address child trafficking within the child welfare system. Data for its reports involves the collection and analysis of all child maltreatment reports of child sex trafficking cases screened in by Maryland's 24 LDSS agencies. These reports include those marked as a sexual abuse – human trafficking in the Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSIE) during screening. Child sex trafficking is defined as a form of sexual abuse in which youth under the age of 18 are exploited through commercial sex. Commercial sex acts, for example prostitution, stripping, or pornography, are those performed in exchange for anything of value. Examples of items of value include money, shelter, food, clothing, or transportation. Minor children involved in any commercial sex act are victims of sex trafficking, regardless of stated consent or the presence of force, fraud, or coercion. Maryland law requires mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect to report cases of child sex trafficking to child protective services. It is important to note that many children who are trafficked may not have contact with state systems or may not disclose their abuse. The information above does not purport to reflect the full scope of child trafficking but is instead an initial review of cases which have touched Maryland's law enforcement and social service systems thus far.

## Evaluate Current State Safe Harbor Policies & Legal Protections

Within the State of Maryland, there is no legal immunity for youth found to be involved in prostitution or prostitution-related activities. Although an individual, under the age of 18, who

has been induced to perform a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking under federal law, they can still be arrested and entered into the criminal justice system by Maryland authorities.

Chapter 357 of 2015 provides that, in a prosecution for a charge relating to prostitution under § 11-306 of the Criminal Law Article, it is an affirmative defense of duress if the defendant committed the act as a result of being a victim of an act of another who was charged with violating the prohibition against human trafficking under § 11-303 of the Criminal Law Article or under federal law. A defendant may not assert the affirmative defense unless the defendant notifies the state's attorney of the defendant's intention to assert the defense at least 10 days prior to trial.

Chapter 516 of 2016 (Alicia's Law) established the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Fund to pay for training, salaries, and equipment to be used for the investigation and prosecution of internet crimes against children. In 2018, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention awarded approximately \$2.6 million in Internet Crimes Against Children grants to assist child advocacy centers and law enforcement agencies in developing an effective response to online child sexual exploitation. This support encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, prevention, and community education. The funding provides agencies with the tools to prevent internet crimes against children by supporting education of law enforcement and Child Advocacy Centers staff while encouraging multi-jurisdictional cooperation. Funding from the 2019 fiscal year was distributed to eligible applicants, to include child advocacy centers, local law enforcement, and the Maryland State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The award period runs from July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2019.

# Recommendations

Chapter 164 of 2017 charged the Workgroup to study legal protections and provisions of services for youth victims of human trafficking, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2018. Pursuant to this Act, the Workgroup identified six recommendations geared around [immunity and/or affirmative defense for youth victims](#), [felony human trafficking](#), [protocols to address missing or runaway children](#), [services to include housing for youth victims](#), and [appropriate federal funding opportunities](#) (as illustrated below).

## #1: Provide Immunity from Prostitution Charges for Youth Under 18 and Consider Immunity and/or an Affirmative Defense for Other Types of Offenses Committed by Youth Victims of Human Trafficking

In 2018, the Workgroup continued to support immunity for minors from prostitution charges and also discussed immunity and/or an affirmative defense for youth victims of human trafficking who commit non-prostitution offenses. The Workgroup also recommended that further discussion should occur as it relates to promising approaches to move Maryland toward a non-criminal response to child sex trafficking victims, to include the consideration of immunity and/or an affirmative defense for non-prostitution offenses, and to make additional recommendations for improving victims' access to services in the State of Maryland.

In 2019, the General Assembly enacted [House Bill 827](#), *Child Abuse and Neglect - Sex Trafficking - Services and Investigations (Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019)*, which established a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program to support services for youth victims of sex trafficking. In particular, the program must support services for youth victims of sex trafficking by: (1) creating and sustaining projects to provide services for youth victims of sex trafficking that are victim centered and trauma informed; (2) facilitating and coordinating among specified entities that respond to youth victims of sex trafficking; (3) ensuring that youth victims of sex trafficking have access to specified services; (4) increasing the State's capacity to respond to youth sex trafficking; and (5) training providers to appropriately identify and serve youth victims of sex trafficking.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Department of Legislative Services. (2019). [The 90 Day Report: A Review of the 2019 Legislative Session](#).

## #2: Support the Felony Human Trafficking Act of 2019

In 2018, the Workgroup recommended support for the *Felony Human Trafficking Act of 2019*, to classify felony human trafficking as a violent crime.<sup>24</sup> This classification would ensure that offenders would serve more time in prison.

In 2019, the General Assembly enacted [House Bill 871/Senate Bill 690](#), *Criminal Law - Human Trafficking and Prostitution Offenses*, which recodified prohibitions that relate to prostitution and human trafficking, and distinguished and renamed conduct referred to in existing law as “human trafficking” to instead be “sex trafficking” and “forced marriage.”<sup>25</sup> It also grouped the offenses of sex trafficking and forced marriage under a new subtitle designation, “Human Trafficking.” In addition, House Bill 871/Senate Bill 690 (2019) expanded prohibitions on sex trafficking; added felony offenses under the new Human Trafficking subtitle to the definition of a “crime of violence” under the Criminal Law Article and the Public Safety Article; and provided that it is not a defense to the crime of abduction of a child younger than age 16 that the defendant did not know the age of the victim.<sup>26</sup>

## #3: Ensure Protocols to Address Missing or Runaway Children Also Address Human Trafficking

In 2017, one in seven endangered runaways reported as missing to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) were likely victims of child sex trafficking.<sup>27</sup> Of those, 88 percent were in the care of social services when they went missing. Children who are under the care of child welfare are particularly vulnerable to traffickers who target and take advantage of their emotional and physical needs. Traffickers target and lure vulnerable youth into sex trafficking through the use of physical and psychological manipulation, and sometimes violence.<sup>28</sup> They often create a seemingly loving or caring relationship with their victim to establish trust and allegiance, and to ensure loyalty to the exploiter even in the face of severe victimization.

The Maryland Center for Missing and Unidentified Persons (MCMUP) collects data on children reported as missing, as well as those repeatedly reported as missing (e.g., repeat runaways).<sup>29</sup> Between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018, 3,415 children (female = 1,994, male = 1,421) were

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<sup>24</sup> It is important to note that trafficking a minor is already a felony under [§ 11-303\(b\)\(1\) and 11-303\(c\)\(2\) of the Criminal Law Article](#).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. (2018). [Children Missing From Care](#).

<sup>28</sup> It is important to note that force, fraud, or coercion is not required for a child to be a victim of child sex trafficking. If a child is engaged in sex work, even without a trafficker, the child is a victim of child sex trafficking.

<sup>29</sup> The Maryland Center for Missing and Unidentified Persons (MCMUP) is a division within the Maryland State Police. Its mission is to provide assistance for the recovery of missing children and adults, and to help with the identification of those who remain unidentified. For more information, please visit the [MCMUP Facebook page](#).

reported as missing. The children reported as missing were predominately Black (n = 2,250), followed by White (n = 1,046), Asian (n = 30), Indian (n = 3), and many unknown (n = 86).

Of the 3,415 children reported as missing, 493 consisted of repeat runaways. The 493 children identified as repeat runaways were reported as missing between two and 18 times (*as illustrated below*).

- 285 children were reported missing 2 times
- 109 children were reported missing 3 times
- 47 children were reported missing 4 times
- 21 children were reported missing 5 times
- 12 children were reported missing 6 times
- 8 children were reported missing 7 times
- 3 children were reported missing 8 times
- 2 children were reported missing 9 times
- 2 children were reported missing 10 times
- 1 child was reported missing 11 times
- 1 child was reported missing 12 times
- 1 child was reported missing 13 times
- 1 child was reported missing 18 times

Due to the proportion of children who are identified as repeat runaways, and the correlation between runaways and sex trafficking, the State of Maryland should focus on repeat runaways who could potentially lead to the identification of additional youth victims of human trafficking.

To address this problem, it is recommended that law enforcement should implement a procedure in which all chronic runaways (defined as three or more incidents) and children missing for more than 30 days are screened for trafficking upon their return. Additional resources may be needed to facilitate this process. This recommendation is in addition to the requirement under the *Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act* (PSTSFA) that system-involved children who go missing from care be screened for trafficking by child welfare when returned to care. In light of the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* (CAPTA) “amendments that define an abused and neglected child to include child sex trafficking victims,” and the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act’s* (JVTA) “clarification of the definition of a child sex trafficking victim as including any commercially sexually exploited child, compliance with PSTSFA requires state child welfare agencies to identify, document, report, and provide services to any child believed to be commercially sexually exploited or believed to be at risk of commercial

sexual exploitation, and ‘over whom the State agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision.’”<sup>30</sup>

Additional information regarding policies and procedures for reporting missing and abducted children is available through NCMEC’s website:

- *Law-Enforcement Policy and Procedures for Reports of Missing and Abducted Children* (available [here](#))
- *Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management* (available [here](#) and [here](#))

#### #4: Expand Services to Youth Victims to Include Housing

The Workgroup recommends identifying programs that can help connect youth victims of human trafficking to available housing opportunities. A recommendation was also made to include the Maryland Department of Health in future conversations because they provide housing, shelter, and other services to youth.

#### #5: Identify and Apply for Appropriate Federal Funding Opportunities

In 2016, the University of Maryland, School of Social Work received a three-year, \$2.5 million grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime to improve statewide coordination and multidisciplinary collaboration in responding to human trafficking involving children and youth. This grant, also known as the *Maryland Human Trafficking Initiative for Children and Youth*, builds on the previously mentioned CSTVI that originated under a five-year grant that was awarded to the School of Social Work in 2014, by the Children’s Bureau.<sup>31</sup>

Through this grant, the University of Maryland, School of Social Work in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force sponsored the first of three conferences, *Maryland Child Trafficking Conference: Moving from Awareness to Response*, on December 4, 2017, at Towson University. Approximately 220 individuals attended this event which served as a statewide public awareness conference to mobilize communities and individuals in response to human trafficking. To continue these efforts, the University of Maryland, School of Social Work in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force sponsored a second conference, *Maryland Child Trafficking Conference: Breaking Down*

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<sup>30</sup> Shared Hope International. (2016). [State Impact: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(PSTSFA\) Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act \(JVTA\)](#).

<sup>31</sup> University of Maryland, Baltimore. (2017). [University of Maryland School of Social Work Awarded \\$2.5M Grant to Address Human Trafficking](#).



*Barriers, Creating Change*, on September 20, 2018, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. This conference served to disseminate knowledge, strategies, and practices across Maryland professionals, communities, and individuals to effectively mobilize response to trafficking of children and youth. The conference also addressed the intersection of sex trafficking and labor trafficking with other aspects of identity to transform attitudes, policies, and practices that encourage justice and healing for victims. The third and final *Maryland Child Trafficking Conference* will occur on August 7, 2019, at Towson University. This conference will further our efforts as it relates to information sharing and strategies to combat trafficking of children.

Recognizing that victims often need financial assistance and resources to become self-sufficient, in 2018, the Hogan-Rutherford Administration awarded nearly \$100 million in federal and state funds to help victims and organizations.<sup>32</sup> In 2019, and as of April, the Hogan-Rutherford Administration has provided more than \$60 million in grant funding for victim services which includes a major expansion of the victim witness relocation and protection program.<sup>33</sup>

Maryland agencies and nonprofits will continue to identify and apply for appropriate federal funding opportunities. Such funds may be used to support anti-human trafficking initiatives to include law enforcement training, provision of victims services, and the continued efforts of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

In an effort to provide the necessary services to youth victims, the Workgroup recommends that direct service providers and nonprofit organizations apply for the following state and federal grant funding opportunities:

- [Maryland Victims of Crime Fund \(MVOC\)](#): Provides for advocacy and support services to victims of crime through the creation of new ideas and the enhancement of existing programs in Maryland.
- [Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\)](#): Helps to improve the treatment of victims of crime by providing victims with the assistance and services necessary to aid their restoration after a violent criminal act, and to support and aid them as they move through the criminal justice process. Victim assistance includes services such as crisis intervention, counseling, emergency transportation to court, temporary housing and criminal justice support and advocacy.
- [STOP \(Services \\* Training \\* Officers \\* Prosecutors\) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program \(STOP VAWA\)](#): Encourages the development and strengthening of

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<sup>32</sup> Office of Governor Larry Hogan. (2018). [Governor Larry Hogan Announces Initiatives to Protect, Empower Victims of Crime](#).

<sup>33</sup> Office of Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford. (2019). Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford Opens 4th Annual Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference, Presents Governor's Victim Assistance Awards. .

effective, victim-centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to combat crimes against women.

## **Appendices**

## Appendix A: Additional Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

In addition to the previously mentioned initiatives and legislative enactments, other efforts include, but are not limited to, the following:<sup>34</sup>

### **Partnerships**

- The [Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force](#) formed in 2007 as an umbrella organization of local, state, and federal agencies and private organizations designed to work collaboratively to identify and restore victims of human trafficking while investigating and prosecuting offenders.
- The [Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force](#) formed in, or around, 2016 with a mission to “prevent and combat human trafficking (sex and labor exploitation) by encouraging, supporting, and promoting public awareness and action within specific communities and counties throughout Maryland’s eastern shore.”
- The [Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative](#) formed in 2017 to combat both sex and labor trafficking in the City of Baltimore.

### **Legislation**

- [Chapter 340 of 2015 \(Senate Bill 335\)](#), *Community Colleges - Victims of Human Trafficking - Exemption From Out-of-County and Out-of-Region Fees*.
- [Chapter 152 of 2016 \(Senate Bill 31\)](#), *Family Law - Child Abuse and Neglect - Expungement of Reports and Records - Time Period*.
- [Chapter 374 of 2016 \(Senate Bill 310\)](#) and [Chapter 375 of 2016 \(House Bill 245\)](#), *Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report*.
- [Chapter 516 of 2016 \(Senate Bill 864\)](#), *Public Safety - Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Fund - Establishment (Alicia’s Law)*.
- [Chapter 157 of 2016 \(Senate Bill 77\)](#), *Human Resources - Transition Planning for Foster Youth*.
- [Chapter 537 of 2016 \(House Bill 493\)](#) and [Chapter 536 of 2016 \(Senate Bill 178\)](#), *Criminal Law - Extortion - Immigration Status*.
- [Chapter 609 of 2016 \(House Bill 72\)](#), *Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Development and Implementation*.
- [Chapter 550 of 2016 \(Senate Bill 346\)](#) and [Chapter 551 of 2016 \(House Bill 314\)](#), *Peace Orders - Grounds for Relief*.

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<sup>34</sup> For more information regarding the various events that have occurred relating to human trafficking, please visit the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force’s [Events](#) webpage. The events range from 2014 to the present date.

- [Executive Order 01.01.2018.02](#) required all State agencies and departments to prominently display information for the national hotline and the BeFree Textline on the homepages of their websites.
- [Chapter 362 of 2018 \(House Bill 301\)](#) and [Chapter 363 of 2018 \(Senate Bill 270\)](#), *Courts - Evidence of Sexually Assaultive Behavior - Admissibility (Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act of 2018)*, provided prosecutors the ability to introduce evidence of other sex crimes in sex offense cases involving serial offenders.
- [Chapter 422 of 2018 \(House Bill 247\)](#), *Criminal Procedure - Victim Services Unit - Victims' Compensation*.
- [Chapter 423 of 2018 \(House Bill 633\)](#) and [Chapter 424 of 2018 \(Senate Bill 578\)](#), *Secretary of State - Address Confidentiality Programs - Shielding of Real Property Records*.
- [Chapter 379 of 2018 \(House Bill 431\)](#) and [Chapter 380 of 2018 \(Senate Bill 308\)](#), *Foster Care Recipients and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth - Employment Program (Fostering Employment Act of 2018)*.

## Conferences

The State of Maryland held several annual conferences to combat human sex trafficking (*as illustrated below*).

- The [Fourth Annual Governor's Conference on Combating Human Trafficking \(2015\)](#) continued to build upon the work from the three prior conferences to provide attendees with progressive approaches to support survivors and investigate traffickers.

Through grant funding, provided by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, the University of Maryland, School of Social Work partnered with the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force to sponsor three conferences (*as illustrated below*).

- The first [Maryland Child Trafficking Conference: Moving from Awareness to Response \(2017\)](#) served to provides a statewide public awareness conference to mobilize communities and individuals in response to human trafficking.
- The second [Maryland Child Trafficking Conference: Breaking Barriers, Creating Change \(2018\)](#) served to disseminate knowledge, strategies, and practices across Maryland to mobilize effective responses to trafficking of children and youth.
- The third and final Maryland Child Trafficking Conference (2019) will build upon these efforts to further information sharing and strategies to combat trafficking of children.

Shared Hope International hosts a JuST Conference series, including the annual JuST Conference and the biennial JuST Faith Summit, to shed light on juvenile sex trafficking (*as illustrated below*).

- [JuST \(Juvenile Sex Trafficking\) Conference 2015](#) allowed participants to network with hundreds of individuals with backgrounds in service delivery, investigation, prosecution, outreach, and community mobilization.
- [JuST Faith Summits \(2016 & 2018\)](#) drew on the success and leadership of Shared Hope International's annual JuST conference to bring insight and action to the faith community.
- [JuST Conference 2017 & 2018](#) included workshops on skill-building, survivor experiences, cross-discipline collaboration, case studies, and lessons learned in the areas of investigation, prosecution, and therapeutic services.

Partnering agencies hosted several annual conferences to help individuals and the community react and respond to human trafficking, and to help restore freedom to victims of human trafficking and end its atrocity (*as illustrated below*).

- [Maryland Freedom Conference: A Public Awareness Initiative on Human Trafficking \(2015\)](#).

Additional conferences occurred at the local and State level (*as illustrated below*).

- The [Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking \(2015\)](#) workshop helped participants learn protocols to identify and respond to domestic violence and human trafficking, and recognize barriers to identification and services.
- [Human Trafficking: In a Neighborhood Near You - "Protecting Our Children on the Eastern Shore" \(2016\)](#).
- The [27th Annual Maryland Statewide Memorial Services for Crime Victims & their Families \(2016\)](#) served to honor Maryland's murdered and missing victims while uniting families and friends of crime victims, victim service professionals, and public officials.
- The [2016 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference](#) provided an overview of crime victims' rights to ensure all crime victims are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process.
- The [Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Human Trafficking Symposium \(2016\)](#) included various topics on trafficking and preparedness to serve survivors.
- The [MNADV's Statewide Conference \(2016\)](#) focused on ending domestic violence.
- [The Power of Partnership in Translational Research: Ruth Young Center for Families and Children Research Seminar Day \(2018\)](#).
- The [2018 Interfaith Domestic Violence Conference](#) served to unite the faith based community against domestic violence.

- The [Howard County Conference on Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention: A Call to Action \(2018\)](#) served to combat human trafficking.
- The [Harford County Trauma Institute's Fifth Annual Conference \(2018\)](#) served to increase knowledge on the impact of trauma to enhance the skills of those who care for and serve individuals and families.

## Trainings

- [The Human Trafficking/Substance Abuse Relationships Training \(2015\)](#) occurred for service providers who work with survivors of human trafficking and other at-risk youth and young adult populations (homeless, runaway).
- [Taking "Paws:" Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence who have Service Animals \(2016\)](#) improved services for domestic violence survivors with service animals.
- The [First Human Trafficking Investigators Seminar \(2016\)](#) in Ocean City, Maryland consisted of a three-day seminar to cover several topics to include sex trafficking, labor trafficking, victimization, investigative techniques, and case preparation.
- The [STOP Human Trafficking Workshop \(2018\)](#) explored the complexities of human trafficking as one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises, and focused on its effect and clinical interventions particularly in the most vulnerable communities.
- The [Maryland Human Trafficking Professionals Seminar \(2018\)](#) provided valuable information on the identification and investigation of human trafficking.
- The [Human Trafficking in Maryland \(2018\)](#) lecture served to enhance victim response by equipping clinicians with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify and support victims of trafficking, and to ensure that victims receive trauma-informed care through capacity-building of service providers and targeting existing service and response gaps.

## Other

Additional events and initiatives occurred at the local and State level (*as illustrated below*).

- [Race Against Traffick \(2016\)](#) served to raise awareness and funds around human trafficking through a 5k run/walk.
- [AWAKEN: Introduction to Human Trafficking & Call to Action \(2016\)](#) provided insight on human trafficking in the Baltimore area and what can be done to stop its injustice.
- The Maryland State Board of Education created a [Human Trafficking Webpage](#) on its webpage in 2017 to serve as a human trafficking resource to identify warning signs and inform Maryland provisions for educators who are mandated reporters, share resources including links to child abuse hotlines, and more.

## Appendix B: Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

# Child Sex Trafficking in Maryland Data Analysis July 2013- June 2018

Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative, University of Maryland School of Social Work



## Methodology

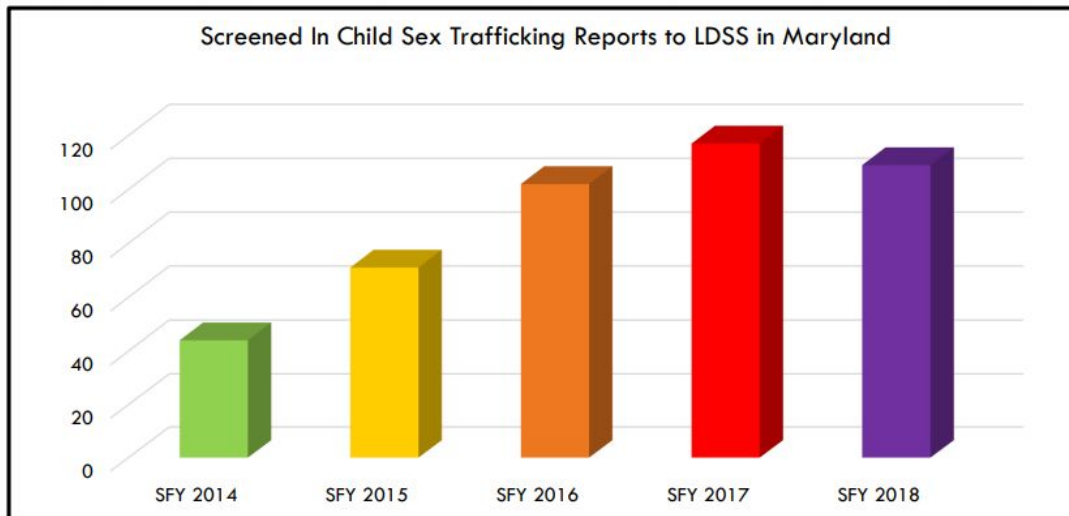
This report, made possible through a partnership between the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI) at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work and the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS), attempts to capture a current and accurate picture of child sex trafficking (CST) in Maryland. CSTVI is a five-year project funded by the Administration for Children and Families: Children's Bureau to address child trafficking within the child welfare system.

Child sex trafficking is a form of sexual abuse in which youth under the age of 18 are exploited through commercial sex. Commercial sex acts, for example prostitution, stripping, or pornography, are those performed in exchange for anything of value. Examples of items of value include money, shelter, food, clothing, or transportation. Minor children involved in any commercial sex act are victims of sex trafficking, regardless of stated consent or the presence of force, fraud or coercion. Maryland law requires mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect to report suspected cases of CST to child protective services.

Research for this report involved collection and analysis of all child maltreatment reports of alleged child sex trafficking cases screened in by Maryland's twenty-four Local Department of Social Services agencies (LDSSs) between July 2013 and June 2018. The reports included were those marked as sexual abuse – human trafficking in the Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSE) during screening. Reports to LDSSs include a variety of sources such as local, state, and federal law enforcement, child welfare and juvenile justice workers, mental health professionals, private citizens, educators, family members, non-profit organizations, court personnel, and medical providers. The total number of CST reports remains larger than the total number of individual alleged trafficking victims for two reasons: (1) upon further investigation, some CST reports proved to involve forms of maltreatment other than trafficking and (2) multiple CST reports exist for one individual youth. We caution that this analysis is of CST reports made and alleged child victims, rather than confirmed cases of child sex trafficking. The graphs and maps presented in this report will note if the analysis is of CST reports received or of individual alleged victims. Research indicates many child trafficking cases go unreported and their victims remain unidentified. This report does not purport to reflect the full scope of child trafficking but is instead an initial review of cases, which have touched Maryland's law enforcement and social service systems thus far.

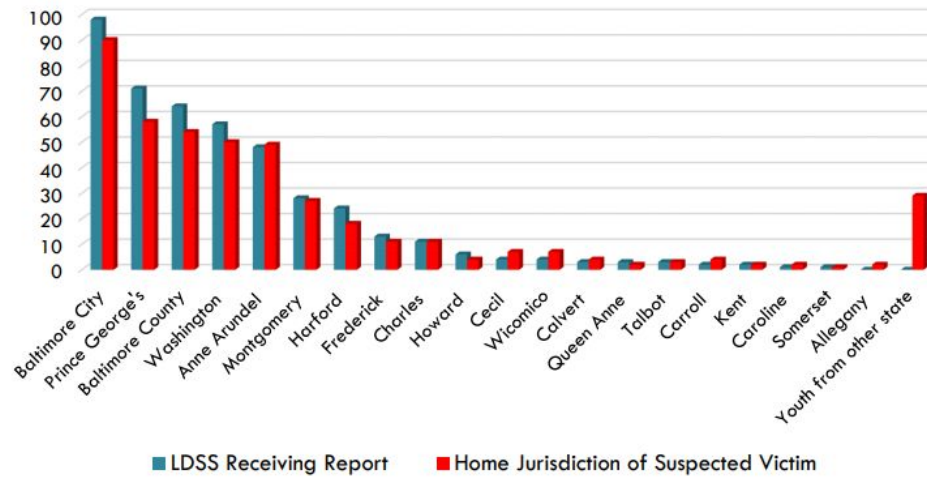


Over **455** reports of child sex trafficking (CST) screened in to LDSS  
involving over **375** individual alleged minor victims.

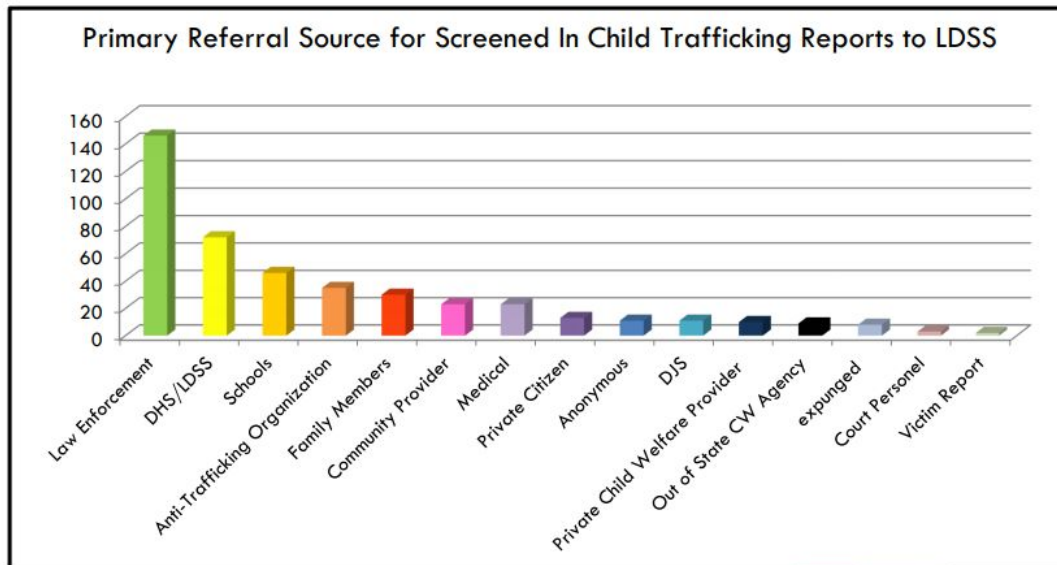




Screened In Child Sex Trafficking Reports by Jurisdiction

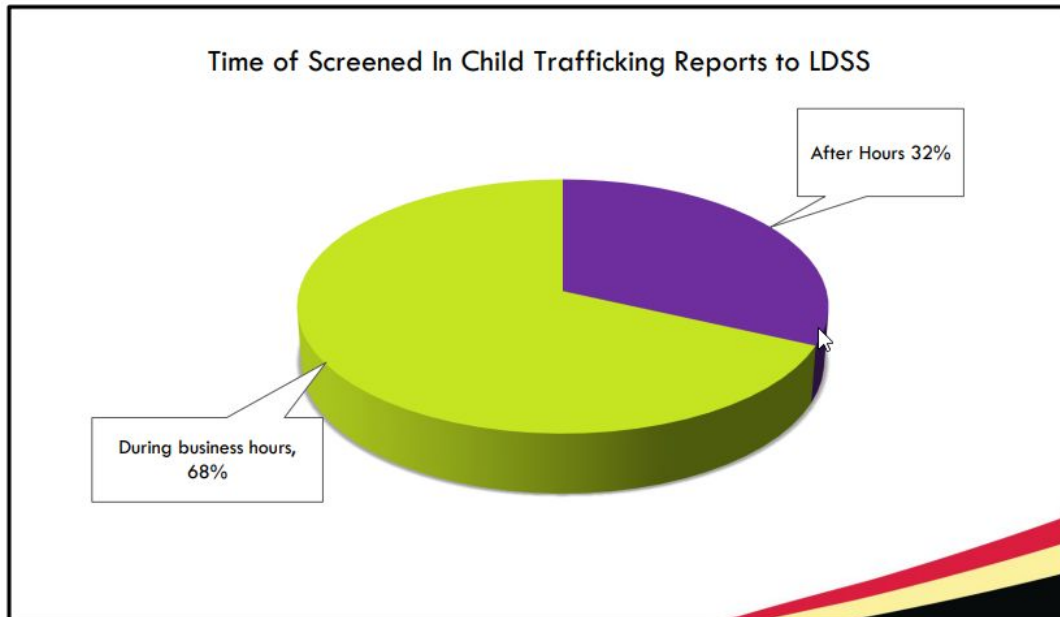


Law enforcement agencies (federal, state and local) made **34%** of all CST reports.





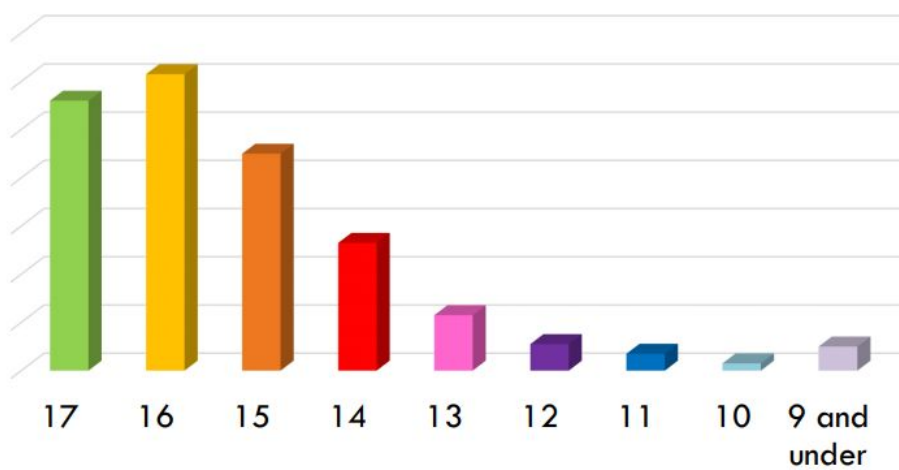
The majority of CST reports were made during business hours, although nearly 1/3 were made after hours.





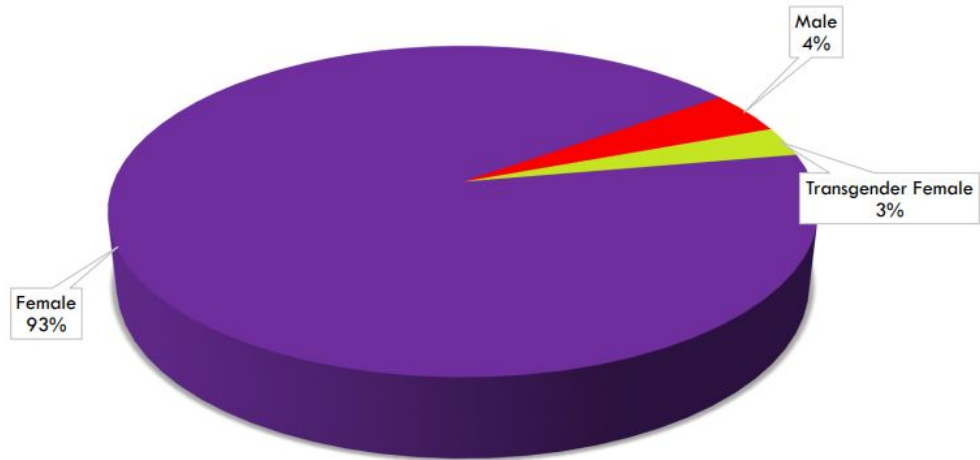
**87%** of alleged victims were 14-17 years old at the time of the CST report.

Age of Alleged Victim at Time of Child Sex Trafficking Report





### Gender of Alleged CST Victims

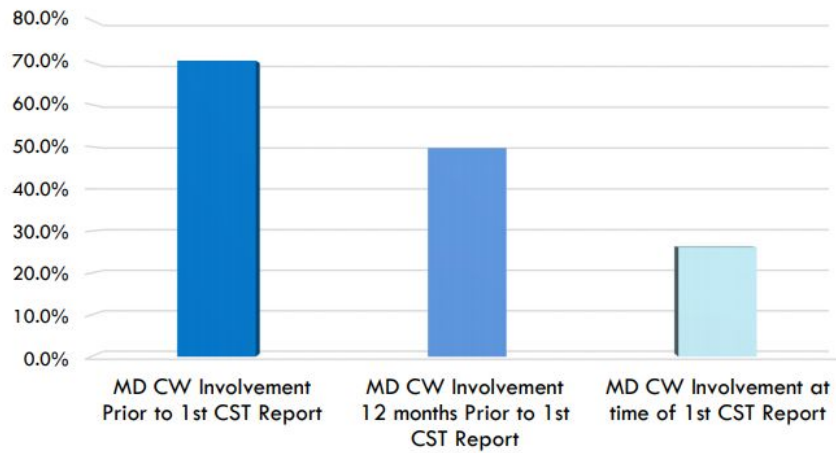






**70%** of alleged victims\* had prior involvement\*\* with Maryland's child welfare system before the first CST report. **50%** had child welfare involvement in the year before the first CST report, and **26%** had an open child welfare case at the time of the first CST report.

Prior Maryland Child Welfare Involvement of Alleged CST Victim



\* Victims who reside in Maryland (n=348)

\*\* Measured by program assignment